



Isle of Man is Added to the List of “Approved” Jurisdictions by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

The Isle of Man has recently been notified by the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (“HKSE”) that it has been accepted as an “approved jurisdiction” for the purposes of the listing of its companies on that exchange.

In doing so, the Isle of Man joins a select group of countries which have been accepted by the Hong Kong Listing Committee and, in the Isle of Man’s case, companies incorporated under the two main bodies of company legislation in the Isle of Man – the Companies Acts 1931-2004 and the Companies Act 2006 – have been accepted. This means that a company incorporated in the Isle of Man can, using the model that has been accepted, now seek a listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Juan Watterson MHK, Political Member of the Department of Economic Development responsible for financial services, said: “This paves the way for the Isle of Man to attract foreign issuers to list on the HKSE. In recent years, the Island has become the leading jurisdiction for listing foreign companies on the UK’s AIM market; a number of our commercial law firms already have considerable international expertise working with Asian lawyers including equity and debt issues by Isle of Man companies on other Asian exchanges and in some cases have representative offices in Asia. We are constantly looking for ways to improve and build on the Island’s international reputation as a high quality International Business Centre, and this listing approval is a further example of this commitment”.

Minister for Economic Development, Allan Bell MHK, added: “The Hong Kong Stock Exchange is assuming greater importance among the leading capital markets. Given the Isle of Man’s proven credentials in Asia and unique status, for example, in facilitating manufacturers in greater China to import goods into the European Union, we see this endorsement by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange as further strengthening the role that we are able to play in enabling international trade.”

This important recognition has been achieved on the basis that the Isle of Man has been able to demonstrate equivalence in its standards of investor and shareholder protection to those available under Hong Kong company law, a further prerequisite being that the Isle of Man is a full signatory to the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding.

Nick Verardi, Local Group Head of Corporate and Commercial at Appleby Isle of Man, commented: “The opportunity for Isle of Man companies to be able to list on the HKSE broadens their appeal and increases their competitiveness. Isle of Man companies are already a well established vehicle for listing purposes and are used extensively on the London Stock Exchange and the Channel Islands Stock Exchange and have been for many years. This additional capability will further endorse the use and acceptability of Isle of Man vehicles in international centres around the world whilst at the same time raise the profile of the Island”.

“We are very excited to see the Isle of Man as a new approved jurisdiction for listing on the HKSE, which is the second largest stock exchange by market capitalisation in Asia” added **Frances Woo**, Managing Partner of Appleby Hong Kong office. “The HKSE has experienced great popularity recently, particularly given the growth in China and enhanced appetite by international investors looking to raise funds in Asia. Appleby has maintained an office in Hong Kong for over 20 years serving Asia Pacific clients and has a wealth of experience in listing companies on the HKSE. We are thrilled to combine our Asian corporate finance experience with our Isle of Man capabilities and look forward to assisting clients with their Isle of Man needs.”

Other jurisdictions where Appleby has offices are also approved by the HKSE, including Bermuda, Cayman, the British Virgin Islands and Jersey.

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